



MEETING MINUTES

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF MONO

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Regular Meetings: The First, Second,
And Third Tuesday of each month

REGULAR MEETING

County Courthouse
Bridgeport, California 93517

October 2, 2007

9:00 a.m. Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Hazard

Pledge of Allegiance led by Tony Dublino, The Sheet

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

No one spoke.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Supervisor Reid reported on the following issues and activities:

1. On September 20th attended a portion of the CNL assessment appeals hearing. Brett Price, Assessor's Counsel, did a very good job. Mr. Lovett was dressed neatly and there is no doubt that technically he is sound; he has the background and knows the code sections. He did a very good job.
2. Attended the Bridgeport RPAC meeting: Caltrans gave an update about the corridor and Public Works provided copies of the cemetery committees' analysis and recommendations, which will be discussed at the next RPAC meeting.
3. On the 24th met in Walker with Stacey Simon, George Milovich and a rancher in order to get opinions about the purchase of water rights proposed by Senator Reid. They decided to wait and see what happens rather than open a dialogue at this time.
4. On the 25th went on a Mono Lake tour; the lake is fascinating and the trip was very educational.
5. Regarding the Assessor's office hours, he was not in on the 25th, he came in for about 30 minutes on the 26th, and was in and out of the office on the 27th.
6. On the 27th met with Linda Arcularius and Betty Potterville in Bishop regarding IMAAA. Reid provided statistical information about the inequities in the funding between Inyo and Mono Counties; Arcularius was open and receptive. She suggested having another meeting before the end of the year, and agreed with the idea of developing a strategic plan. IMAAA is currently doing a background check on the person hired as the site coordinator. The cook at the Walker Senior Center failed his second food services exam; he is off this week, but a replacement will cook meals while he is away.
7. Regarding large trucks crossing Sonora Pass, Dana from Senator Cox's office called Reid to ask his thoughts about it. Reid agreed with prohibiting commercial truck traffic; he and Dana will talk with the Highway Patrol about this issue.
8. At the end of the month Reid will be in Montana; he will miss the first and probably the second meetings of November.

9. Another Board Member will be covering the Town-County Liaison meeting. The LTC meeting was moved from October 8 to October 15; he can't attend due to medical appointments and asked another Board Member to attend in his place.

Supervisor Hunt reported on the following issues and activities:

1. Attended the RCRC conference September 19-21 in Napa; it was a good meeting. Discussed the following: California's economic future from a political perspective; high taxation and the need for California to be more competitive; California's housing challenges; gang intrusion into rural counties; preparing the next generation of county leaders; health care reform; electoral issues; and climate change. Toured the Culinary Institute of Napa Valley and a "green" vineyard; at the basket raffle, Mono County's basket raised \$350 in a special auction. At the RCRC board meeting discussed water issues, and the Hoover Wilderness proposal and Buck McKeon's work. A resolution was presented supporting Dick Noles' proposed recreation designation. Hunt talked about current mechanisms to accomplish the designation without taking it to the federal level, but the resolution was supported 25-1. However, the RCRC board was informed that Mono County is trying to accomplish something at the local level.
2. Attended the Great Basin air pollution control meeting on September 24th. They authorized the use of new monitors, scheduled a sale of surplus equipment, and discussed the draft of the 2008 Owens Valley PM10 State Implementation Plan and EIR.
3. On September 26th attended a mental health and drug/alcohol advisory committee meeting. They are working on a work-force education and training component, and have a good handle on implementing the act.
4. Stayed overnight at Benton hot springs over the weekend; this is a great asset. Hiked up to Saddlebag Lake on Friday.

Supervisor Bauer reported on the following issues and activities:

1. Attended the June Lake Economic Development meeting.
2. Had dinner with Bob Haueter.
3. Attended the Eastern Sierra Partners working group meeting; they will have a large group meeting in October.
4. The ESTA board meeting went well. Attended the ESTA subcommittee meeting, but they did not have much to discuss.
5. Attended the Mammoth High football games in Las Vegas and Kern Valley; the team lost both games.
6. Attended the SBC leadership conference. It was a wonderful experience and it was nice to see how other communities deal with their projects. Learned a lot about public processes.
7. Flew to Washington, D.C. (paid for by NACO—National Association of Counties). Mono County may get more funding (possibly \$1 million) through the PILT (payment in lieu of taxes) bill. The bill passed through the House and has support in the Senate. PILT won't have to go through the appropriations committee every year because it is a five-year bill.

Supervisor Farnetti reported on the following issues and activities:

1. After the last Board meeting, traveled to New York City to visit his daughter and son-in-law, who is getting trained by Lehman Brothers. After the training is completed, his daughter and son-in-law will relocate to San Francisco. Farnetti found out that he and his wife are going to be grandparents.
2. Last week attended the Mammoth/Bishop football game; Mammoth won the game.

Chairman Hazard reported on the following issues and activities:

1. Attended the RCRC conference; was particularly interested in a session about high-speed internet services in rural counties. The Governor's staff is looking at public-private

partnerships to maximize the efforts. There are many options for service, but fiber optics may work well in rural counties; Mono County currently has the backbone through cell towers, CSA repeater sites, and radio repeater systems. Hazard met with various entities to discuss an overlay for the County. He asked the Board if they want him to bring this issue back as an agenda item in order to create a group to do planning; the Board said yes.

2. The Planning Commission met in Chalfant on the 20th to discuss the White Mountain Estates plan. Hazard asked the Board if they are willing to hold October's adjourned meeting in Chalfant in order to discuss this issue; the Board agreed. [Note: The adjourned meeting in Chalfant was later changed to November].
3. Attended the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control meeting on the 24th. Hazard believes the complaint about smoke from wood stoves in Crowley is an enforcement issue and not a monitoring issue. However, Great Basin is planning to install a monitoring device but not at the community center as originally proposed.
4. Regarding mailboxes in Crowley Lake, there are enough boxes for the residences in Crowley Lake proper (Phase 1). Phase 2 will include Tom's Place and Sunny Slopes; Sunny Slopes will move toward a cluster box system. Phase 3 includes Long Valley and Aspen Spring; these communities don't want to change so the project will be phased in last.
5. Attended the U. S. Forest Service road inventory meeting on the 26th; the information is published in the Federal Register. At next week's Board meeting, Nancy Upham will provide an update.
6. Attended a collaborative planning team meeting on the 27th; there was a poor turnout. Issues discussed: Mammoth had their first district meeting; SANBAG, based on letters of concern, will put off a decision about the 395 corridor for another two months; the Forest Service will be issuing 20-year packer permits; campground operators' bidding will go out next year; anticipating a world-wide ski and snowboard event on McGee Mountain during the last week of January, so there may be road closures and paramedic services required; cinders will be available from Black Point Mine; bus service at Red's Meadow has ended, but the road will remain open in October.
7. Attended a meeting about wireless service to talk about moving the lease policy forward.
8. Attended a meeting yesterday about bus stops and mailboxes in Tom's Place; addressed issues about the location of the bus stop, transit stop and mailboxes. Locations will tie-in to the road rehabilitation project.
9. Spoke with Bill Dunkelberger about the windmill project in Benton; the BLM is shelving the project.
10. There was another mechanical failure in one paramedic vehicle two weekends ago. An additional EMT may be relocating to Benton.
11. Received two emails from CSAC: (1) Will the Board of Supervisors consider not meeting in November in order to attend CSAC? The Board agreed they should not change their meeting schedule. (2) Regarding the appointment of a CSAC board member, Chairman Hazard asked the Clerk to put this item on the agenda.
12. The Board received an invitation to a Halloween Party hosted by the Tax Collector's office.
13. Regarding a potential issue about Mammoth Lakes Airport being used for improper storage, Hazard contacted Fred Stump who said the hangars are inspected on an annual basis. Different storage requirements allow for storage of private items, but users cannot conduct businesses or use hangars for commercial storage. There may be one person out of compliance.
14. Chairman Hazard asked Supervisor Bauer to chair the meeting on November 6th.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

- 1) CAO Report regarding Board Assignments (**David Wilbrecht**)
RECOMMENDED ACTION: Receive brief oral report by County Administrative Officer (CAO) regarding his activities.
David Wilbrecht, CAO, reported on the following issues and activities:
1. Attended the JPA conference in September; this group focuses primarily on risk management and insurance issues. Attended a session about computer security, and a session about risk management and workers' compensation. Computer security is a big issue so the County will be upgrading its security systems; risk management and workers' compensation continue to become more complex. It was a good conference.

- 2a) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
M07-230 Regular meeting of September 11, 2007, as amended.
(Reid/Bauer, 5-0)

Supervisor Reid, correction on page 4, Brian Muir's comment #4: should be **CSA 2**.
Supervisor Bauer, correction on page 2, Bauer's Board Report #1: **Supervisor Bauer thought some of the June Lake Advocates' issues were addressed.**

- 2b) Regular meeting of September 18, 2007.
M07-231 (Hunt/Farnetti, 4-0; Bauer abstain)

Closed Session 9:10 a.m. through 10:07 a.m. Reconvened closed session from 3:30 p.m. through 4:20 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

- 3) CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS. Government Code section 54956.8. Property: that certain parcel in the Town of Mammoth Lakes, bounded by Highway 203, Sierra Park Road, and Mammoth Hospital. Agency negotiators: Dave Wilbrecht, Marshall Rudolph, Brian Muir, and Mark Magit. Negotiating parties: Mono County, the Town of Mammoth Lakes, and the Judicial Council/Administrative Office of the Courts. Under negotiation: price and terms of payment.

The Board had nothing to report out of closed session.

Break from 10:07 a.m. through 10:11 a.m.; reconvened at 10:11 a.m.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS/EMERGING ISSUES

Mary Booher reported on the following:

1. Updated the Board about health care reform; expecting the written legislation possibly today. The restaurant association may increase sales tax to help cover costs. The State is still looking for \$1 billion from Counties overall; Mono County should come out alright. The Legislature will pass a plan and financing will end up as a ballot initiative. On the federal

level, the SCHIP has passed the House; mental illnesses would be covered the same as physical illness.

Christy Robles reported on the following:

1. Provided an update about Insight voting equipment that the Board approved for purchase. The Secretary of State's Office officially approved use of the Insight equipment for the presidential primary in February.

Evan Nikirk reported on the following:

1. Status of projects: The search and rescue vehicle has been delivered and is outfitted with a new utility box. The Hot Creek School gym project was completed last week; the building is down to concrete slabs and asphalt. If the Board approves the installation of monitoring wells, Nikirk will find out if the County can abandon the well at the school site. Generators are installed in Bridgeport, June Lake is nearly finished, and Benton should be completed in the next couple of weeks. Work crews are finishing up the Walker parking lot this week; the goal is to have it in usable form for the BBQ this weekend. A crew is working on the irrigation system at the Bridgeport skate park. The Walker interceptor has been ordered.
2. New employees started this week so the department is fully staffed.
3. Landscaping for the community center in Lee Vining is being worked on.
4. Regarding playground equipment for parks, Public Works will plan the project over the winter and will meet with community groups; the goal is to be ready for spring.
5. Regarding chairs for the Board Chambers, the vendor requires full payment in advance, so Kelly Garcia requested letters of reference and ordered sample chairs prior to making full payment. After placing the final order, shipment will take 6-8 weeks. Kelly suggested the Board consider purchasing a table for the back of the chambers to accommodate those who have laptops.

Marshall Rudolph reported on the following:

1. The County is in the process of purchasing tax-defaulted property (gravel pit); someone may pay the taxes on this property which will render the County's purchase null and void.

Scott Burns reported on the following:

1. On September 20th the Planning Commission had a public hearing in Chalfant regarding White Mountain Estates; this has been forwarded to the Board of consideration. In the past, the Board has conducted a hearing in the community. November will work best for the consultants and others involved.

Clay Neely reported on the following:

1. The recent power outages did not impact the County because IT shut down computer systems in advance. IT did not get official notices from the power company; they heard about the outages from County employees.

CONSENT AGENDA

COUNTY COUNSEL

- 4) Amendment of agreement with Valley TV & Communication to Provide Translator Site Maintenance within CSA #1

M07-232 ACTION: Authorize the Chair to sign proposed Agreement and First Amendment to Agreement between the County of Mono and Norm Powell, DBA Valley TV &

Communication, increasing the fees charged by Valley TV & Communication to maintain translator sites within County Service Area #1.

(Farnetti/Reid, 5-0)

COUNTY COUNSEL/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- 5) Proposed Ordinance Pertaining to the Tourism/Film Commission
ACTION: Adopt **Ordinance Ord 07-10**, "An Ordinance of the Mono County Board of Supervisors Amending Section 2.85.010 of the Mono County Code, pertaining to the Tourism/Film Commission."
(Farnetti/Reid, 5-0)
- Ord07-10**

PUBLIC WORKS

- 6) Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Policy, FY 07/08
ACTION: (1) Adopt and authorize the Chair's signature on **Resolution R07-69**, "A Resolution of the Mono County Board of Supervisors Adopting a "Disadvantaged Business Enterprise" (DBE) Policy for the 2007-2008 Federal Fiscal Year." (2) Authorize the Public Works Director, in consultation with County Counsel, to execute and administer the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Race-Neutral Implementation Agreement with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans).
(Farnetti/Reid, 5-0)
- R07-69**
M07-233

REGULAR AGENDA

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED (INFORMATIONAL)

All items listed are available for review and are located in the Office of the Clerk of the Board

#	Received	Dated	From	Subject
7a)	9/18/07	9/10/07	Brad Wagoner	Letter to Assessor requesting a reassessment on property (cc: Board of Supervisors).
7b)	9/19/07	9/13/07	Summons to a State Board of Equalization Meeting	Notice to County Assessors regarding attendance at a meeting (cc: County Boards of Supervisors)
7c)	9/20/07	9/18/07	Karl E. Geier, Miller Starr Regalia	Letter to Geoffrey McQuilkin regarding the Cunningham Property, Mono Lake, California (cc: Members of Board of Supervisors of Mono County)

Supervisor Reid referred to letter 7a) and said this problem has been resolved. Supervisor Farnetti asked for a report once a month from the Assessor's Office about these types of requests. Chairman Hazard acknowledged receipt of all the correspondence.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- 8) Out of State Training for Clay Neely and Kirk Hartstrom (**Clay Neely**)
M07-234 **ACTION:** Approve and authorize Clay Neely, IT Director, and Kirk Hartstrom, IT Specialist, to attend computer language training classes in Scottsdale, Arizona, October 29 through November 2, 2007. Kirk will attend two classes for a total of five days training; Clay will attend a two-day class at the same time. The purpose of Kirk's three-day class is to get him up to speed on the language used to maintain software. The two-day class, which Clay and Kirk will attend, is an introduction to a new release of the software.
(Hunt/Farnetti, 5-0)

Clay Neely: This is the only class available at this time. Kirk needs to be trained on language used to support software; and the two-day class will introduce both Kirk and Clay to the new software. Neely said most of the cost is for Kirk's class (about \$1600 per day); the two-day class costs \$500 each, and the remainder of the expense is for travel.

PUBLIC WORKS

- 9a) Tenant Improvements to Third Floor space within Sierra Center Mall (**Dave Wilbrecht and Kelly Garcia**)
M07-235 **ACTION:** (1) Approve and authorize staff to negotiate scope of services and fees for preparation of construction drawings and specifications with Mokler Design for tenant improvements at third floor space within Sierra Center Mall. (2) Approve and authorize the County Administrative Officer to process and execute an agreement not to exceed \$20,000 with Mokler Design for construction drawings and specifications for tenant improvements at the third floor space within Sierra Center Mall.
(Bauer/Farnetti, 5-0)

Kelly Garcia outlined the location of the space on the 3rd floor of the Sierra Center Mall (map on file in the Clerk's Office). Improvements include: installation of speakers and other wiring in the multi-purpose room to allow for internet and meeting connections between North and South County offices; office space for the CAO, receptionist, and staff members of Economic Development; two work spaces for Board Members; a work space for a Public Works engineer; space for various departments, including Finance and the Clerk's Office; and storage for IT and Public Works. Garcia said they will negotiate a contract with Mokler Design who did the work on the 2nd floor.

- 9b) Monitoring Well Installation at County Landfills (**Evan Nikirk**)
M07-236 **ACTION:** Authorize the Public Works Director (in consultation with County Counsel) to execute and administer a professional services agreement with SRK Consulting, Inc., of Reno, Nevada, in an amount not to exceed \$185,000 for the installation of ground water monitoring wells and landfill gas monitoring wells at Mono County landfills. This authorization shall include making minor amendments to said agreement from time to time as the Public Works Director may deem necessary, provided such amendments do not substantially alter the scope of work or budget and are approved as to form by County Counsel.
(**Farnetti/Reid, 5-0**)

Evan Nikirk: This agreement will address environmental monitoring at four Mono County landfills. Additional ground-water monitoring wells will be installed, and gas monitoring wells will be installed at two of the sites. This is considered a "public work" so is subject to prevailing wages, making the bid \$185,000. Nikirk asked the Board to authorize this amount. Supervisor Farnetti asked about closure funds to pay for the expenses. Nikirk said they can't use the closure funds until they are ready to construct and be reimbursed; he recommended waiting until they have the cost estimate and then take a reimbursement from the reserve.

- 9c) Authorization to Conduct a Public Auction of Surplus Equipment (**Evan Nikirk**)
R07-70 **ACTION:** (1) Approve and authorize the Chair's signature on **Resolution R07-70**, "A Resolution of the Mono County Board of Supervisors Authorizing a Public Auction to Dispose of Excess and/or Unneeded County Property."
(**Bauer/Hunt, 5-0**)

Evan Nikirk: A lot of equipment has accumulated over the last two years. Nikirk provided a draft copy of the list and said additional vehicles may be added to it. Public Works wants to conduct another auction in May or June of next year in order to dispose of additional equipment. The auction on October 20th will be conducted in Bridgeport at Memorial Hall. Supervisor Reid asked about providing IMAAA with a vehicle. Nikirk said part of the resolution will make vehicles available to special districts prior to the public sale, so they can bid on a vehicle. Nikirk is still exploring options for disposing of some of the equipment, such as using Ebay or conducting a professional auction.

COUNTY COUNSEL/FINANCE

- 10) Proposed Contract (**Marshall Rudolph, Brian Muir**)
M07-237 **ACTION:** (1) Approve County entry into proposed contract regarding Juvenile Dependency Legal Counsel Services to be provided by Mono County to the Mono County Courts during Fiscal Year 2007-08 and Fiscal Years thereafter. (2) Authorize the Board Chair to sign said contract on behalf of the County.
(**Hunt/Reid, 5-0**)

Marshall Rudolph: Counsel for juvenile dependency cases is currently a court charge. Through this agreement the court will reimburse the County for the value of the service, determined to be \$25,000 this year. Attorneys will keep track of their time and figures will be used to determine next year's costs. The County will be reimbursed for costs it currently bears.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

11) Use of Public Funds (**Chairman Hazard**)

ACTION: (1) Discuss specific purchases for employees and/or volunteers using public funds. Such purchases would include recognition for years of service, seasonal recognition, and incentives for election poll workers. (2) Provide desired direction to staff.

Dave Wilbrecht: Marshall Rudolph gave a presentation regarding use of public funds for various purposes; the Board has a lot of discretion in this matter. Administration has looked at past practices and new ideas, and will bring various policy issues before the Board to consider at different meetings. Today there are specific items the Board will consider, but the only action is to direct staff. Marshall Rudolph will then draft a document to set forth findings of public purpose in order to justify the expenditures.

Rita Sherman: Talked about two purchases for employees—Recognition for Years of Service and Seasonal Recognition.

Years of Service

- A committee was formed last year to consider ways to recognize County employees for years of service, and the committee started to draft a policy addressing employee recognition. They suggested giving a service pin and a certificate of appreciation during an awards ceremony.
- Year 2007 would be the largest purchase in order to catch up on recognition; the cost going forward would be less. Service pins will replace the clocks.
- A majority of the counties have this type of recognition; Mono County would like to start next year.
- The committee's draft policy suggests recognizing volunteers with a certificate but not a pin.

Seasonal Recognition

- Usually in December employees are given a card and a token of appreciation. The Board needs to determine whether or not it is appropriate to continue this practice.

Board Discussion:

The Board supported the concept of recognizing employees for years of service. Supervisor Reid asked for time to review the information. Supervisor Bauer said wearing a pin will show pride in the County. Chairman Hazard referred this matter to staff for a recommendation.

Regarding seasonal recognition, Board Members' opinions varied. Supervisor Reid said a card is appropriate but not a gift; he expressed concern about giving "Christmas" presents. Supervisor Bauer suggested a formal recognition program could replace seasonal recognition. Supervisor Farnetti supported the idea of recognizing employees, and agreed with Bauer's suggestion. Supervisor Hunt supported seasonal recognition and said it is important to recognize employees, build morale, and acknowledge the work they do. He suggested the Board could agendaize this item each year to decide appropriate recognition. Chairman Hazard expressed mixed emotions about this issue. He supported the idea of acknowledging employees, but expressed concern about public perception.

Supervisor Hunt said over the past 3-4 years he has not heard any comments about misuse of public funds, but he has heard positive feedback from employees. The gesture on the part of the Board has made a difference. The idea of hosting a party was considered; Supervisors Hunt and Hazard did not think this would be an effective way to recognize individual employees.

The Board decided to refer this issue back to staff for a recommendation. Wilbrecht thanked the Board for their comments and said recognition needs to have meaning and value. Staff will ask employees, and administration will come back to the Board with a concept.

Lynda Roberts: Talked about expenditures to recognize election poll workers.

- Poll workers and inspectors work very long hours during adverse weather conditions for little pay; plus they are required to attend a 1-2 hour training session prior to each election. This fiscal year there will be three elections.
- For the last 30 years, the Election Clerk has provided a luncheon after the mandatory training session, consisting of pizza and salad in Mammoth Lakes, or sandwiches in Bridgeport. The approximate cost for the last luncheon was \$250.
- For the last six years, the Election Clerk has given recognition certificates to each poll worker; the cost is about \$30 per election for paper.
- Recently, the Election Clerk distributed "I Make A Difference" lapel pins for the first time. Pins would be given once a year (during the February primary) to those who had not previously received one. The cost for 50 pins is about \$210.
- The Election Clerk has a pool of 50 poll workers, and generally 20-25 people are willing to help. It is difficult to find people.
- Poll workers are required in order to conduct an election; the minimal expenditures outlined above are a worthwhile way to show appreciation.

Christy Robles, Election Clerk, concurred. Poll workers are civic-minded people and those who help are enjoying working during elections, so it is important to recognize them.

The Board supported this request. Chairman Hazard referred this matter back to staff. Marshall Rudolph will draft the appropriate document for Board approval at an upcoming meeting.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- 12) Rodeo Grounds Planning and Environmental Contracts (**Scott Burns and Larry Johnston**)
- M07-238 ACTION:** (1) Authorize Chair's signature on contract with PMC at a cost not to exceed \$450,597.00, with all contract funding to be provided by Intrawest. (2) Authorize Chair's signature on contract with Dinsmore SIERRA, LLC, at a cost not to exceed \$76,000.00, with all contract funding to be provided by Intrawest. (3) Authorize staff along with County Counsel to prepare an agreement and payment schedule for deposit of funds from Intrawest. (4) Authorize CAO to sign said documents.
- (Bauer/Hunt, 5-0)**

Scott Burns: These two contracts will initiate work on the environmental impact of the Rodeo Grounds project; the majority of the work will be assigned to PMC, a company chosen through a community-based process. This is a growing firm focused on California processes. Together with the overall proposal is a design review process through the Citizens Advisory Committee of June Lake. Dinsmore SIERRA (previously Regional Planning Partners) will take design issues to the community. Dinsmore has done work previously in Mono County and the June Lake area; the company has a good background. Burns asked the Board to authorize the contracts with PMC and Dinsmore SIERRA, authorize staff to prepare an agreement and payment schedule for deposit of funds from Intrustwest, and authorize the CAO to sign the document on behalf of the County. The consultants are not authorized to start work until the County gets the money.

Supervisor Bauer asked if the contractors agreed with this phased approach; Burns said the contracts specify a phased approach. Bauer said the June Lake CAC chose a subcommittee to interview candidates, and these companies were their first two choices. Both contractors specify their intent to work with the community and include public participation.

~ LUNCH RECESS ~

Break from 12:05 p.m. through 1:05 p.m.; reconvened 1:05 p.m.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

No one spoke.

1:30 p.m. PUBLIC HEARING—DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

13) County Fees (Brian Muir)

ACTION: Approve Resolution 07-____ adopting new or increased fees for certain County permits and other services, and authorizing the finance director to compile and maintain one or more lists of County fees.

Brian Muir: The purpose of the public hearing is to consider whether or not to adopt increased fees. The Board can review fees annually; in the future, Muir would like to adjust fees prior to budget time. Fees cannot exceed the actual cost of providing the various services; the policy decision is whether or not the Board wants to subsidize the fees from the general fund, or have the user pay the fees. The Tax Collector's Office will do the billing. The master list includes all fees and shows the fees by department, what is currently being charged, the actual cost of the service, and a recommendation from the department about the fee. This information was published in the paper.

Chairman Hazard asked about several fees.

- Community development fees. Scott Burns said they are implementing a new process that will calculate time more thoroughly. The hourly rate has not increased and they are charging a much lower rate against grants; they need to accurately charge against grants.
- Produce Stands and Farmers' Markets. Mary Booher said currently there are no facilities to inspect; they will review this fee.
- Tattoo and Body Piercing. Mary Booher said this is a one-time registration fee allowed by the state; there are currently no regulations. The \$25 fee is reflective of time; the department does not have history to support an increase.

Supervisor Farnetti asked about pool and spa fees.

- Mary Booher said this is an annual permit fee, based on the hourly rate of \$78. Tom Wallace said all environmental health costs are put into an aggregate that equals \$78/hour, which is low compared to other counties.

Regarding a revised public records fee (to recover certain costs associated with providing public records), Marshall Rudolph said this will come to the Board as a separate item.

Chairman Hazard opened the public hearing:

Ray Warburton (land surveyor and president of Eastern Sierra Land Surveys), and Bruce Woodworth (surveyor) both expressed concern about the record-of-survey fee. The current fee is \$100 (although it was published as \$800), and is increasing to \$850. They asked for an explanation. Evan Nikirk said Public Works did time-motion studies for all their fees. Records of survey are contracted out; it takes between 5.5-6 hours (at \$115 per hour) to conduct a review, plus 1.5 hours of staff time. In addition, there are departmental costs and County-wide overhead costs.

Warburton said other counties charge anywhere between \$0 to about \$350. People may not do boundary surveys if the fee is \$850 since it will increase the cost of a boundary survey. Nikirk said after sending out a note to local engineers and surveyors, he received two responses that are similar to Warburton's comments.

There were no other comments. Chairman Hazard closed the public hearing.

Board Discussion:

Supervisor Reid asked about the following:

- How do fees impact the Gann limit? Muir said fees don't have an impact because Gann is related to property taxes.
- Asked about restaurant fees. Booher said these fees are based on actual costs; staff does time studies to determine how much time is spent. Determining fees is an evolving process and sometimes there are regulatory changes.
- Asked about grading fees, currently \$270 with a proposed fee of \$578. Nikirk said a deposit is posted and then after the work is done, there is a refund.
- Under the present fee structure, what is the total collected? Muir said he will find out.

Supervisor Reid said he has a hard time justifying the fee increases because of the County's present financial condition. In the annual review, he would like the Board to consider the County's financial circumstances. He suggested cutting the proposed fees by 50%. Muir said some of the fees are set by code.

Supervisor Farnetti said fees are charged to people who utilize the services, but agreed that the record-of-survey fee is a big change. He said he could support the status quo this year. Supervisor Hunt suggested the record-of-survey fee be increased incrementally. He also said local government needs to be self sufficient through direct cost recovery. The longer this issue is postponed, the harder it is to increase the fees. Supervisor Bauer said the County needs to encourage development at a local level, and fees are a deterrent; she agreed with Supervisor Farnetti about maintaining status quo this year. Chairman Hazard said RPACs have requested more frequent fee adjustments in order to avoid drastic changes. He suggested adjusting the fees but implementing the increases next year, or capping the increase at 50%. He also said he doesn't want the general taxpayer to cover the cost for development.

Evan Nikirk distributed a list of fees charged by other rural counties, and said fees allow general fund revenue to be used for other County needs. Mary Booher said there are new fees in the Public Health Department related to consultations with people traveling out of the country. This is a service to the community so citizens don't have to drive to Reno. It is not a fair use of health realignment funds, so the department would like these fees approved.

The Board decided to continue this item.

Brian Muir reiterated the Board's direction to staff:

- Provide information about the total fees currently being charged.
- Provide information about the total fees that would be charged with the proposed changes.
- Review the fee list for accuracy.
- Specify which fees are increasing by more than 50%.

ADJOURNED: 4:20 p.m.

Mono County Board of Supervisors next regular session will be on **October 9, 2007**, at the hour of 9:00 a.m. in the Board Chambers, County Courthouse, Bridgeport, California.

§§§§§